

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

21 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 21 May 1958

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Gen. Cabell, Mr. Cutler, Mr. Harr,
Mr. Gerard Smith (State), Mr. James Smith (ICA),
Mr. Sprague, Mr. Strauss, Mr. Staats

1. U. S. Policy on Nuclear Fallout

Mr. Strauss referred to a message from the American delegation to the United Nations, having to do with the above subject. He said it was evident from this message that our delegation does not fully understand what the official U. S. position actually is. The delegation seemed to believe that the U. S. policy is one of deliberate belittlement of the dangers of nuclear fallout, whereas the actual position, according to Mr. Strauss, is that our Government continually attempts to present the true facts of the situation which in themselves show the danger to be less than the public is sometimes inclined to believe.

Mr. Strauss solicited the assistance of the members of the Board in devising better means of explaining the U. S. position both in this country and abroad.

2. Invitations to Hardtack Demonstration

The group then discussed the pros and cons of extending to additional countries invitations to the unclassified nuclear demonstration which will be held as a part of the Hardtack tests. Those mentioned were: Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand, South Korea, Chinese Nationalists, Iran, Iraq and Spain.

After some discussion, it was agreed that it would be worthwhile to invite the nine countries listed, but the group felt that there should

NSC review(s) completed.

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be no more invitations after this. It was pointed out that facilities for taking care of foreign observers will be limited to some extent, and with this in mind priorities should be set among the invitees. The group agreed that the Asian countries should be asked first.

Mr. Gerard Smith reported that Mr. Rubottom did not believe it desirable or necessary to invite any Latin America countries.

3. Economic Aid Policy for Laos

Mr. James Smith commented on the results of the recent elections in Laos and speculated as to whether the fact of the Communist gains should lead to a reconsideration of economic aid policy toward that country. It was pointed out that a Progress Report on Southeast Asia, and a new Operations Plan for Laos, are scheduled to be considered by the Board Assistants on 23 May and by the Board on 4 June. Mr. Smith said that if a major change in this policy should take place ICA would need to know no later than 9 June, in order to adjust its programs for the coming fiscal year. He said he personally felt that a change would be desirable.

It was pointed out that even should the above-mentioned papers be cleared by the Board on 4 June, it would not be possible to develop a new NSC policy for some time thereafter. Therefore, it would be impossible to indicate any definite changes in policy to ICA by the 9 June date. It was the advice of the Board that ICA should temporize as far as possible.

4. Laos Elections

General Cabell gave a brief analysis of the election returns from Laos. He emphasized particularly that the Communist gains could well lead to much more important ones in 1959.



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Deputy Director

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